

**ADJOURNED CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
May 21, 2012
6:30 P.M.**

Mayor Jeffrey E. Graham Presiding

Present: Council Member Roxanne M. Burns
Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr.
Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso
Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith
Mayor Graham

Also Present: John C. Krol, City Manager
Robert J. Slye, City Attorney

City staff present: Jim Mills, Ken Mix, Kurt Hauk, Elliott Nelson, Erin Gardner, Amy Pastuf, Brenda Harwood, Barbara Wheeler

Meeting opened with a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Presentation- VFW Poppy Day

Mayor Graham invited Council to join him as he presented representatives of the VFW with a certificate. Mayor Graham read a proclamation declaring the week of May 20-26 as official Poppy Week. Alexis Sykes, Poppy Queen, gave poppies to Council.

Commander Ty, on behalf of all the Veterans in Jefferson County, thanked the Mayor for the proclamation.

2012-13 Library Fund Discussion

Mayor Graham thanked Connie Holberg, Stephen Gebo and Maxine Quigg, members of the Flower Memorial Library Board, and Library Director Barbara Wheeler, for coming to the meeting. Mayor Graham noted that in recent discussions, some issues that came up included security and untoward activities that have been occurring.

Mrs. Wheeler commented that the Police Chief has been helpful in implementing walk-throughs around the library once a day by an officer.

Mayor Graham inquired if more walk-throughs would be helpful or if a particular time would be more beneficial.

Mrs. Wheeler suggested times that might be better for an officer to come. She added that the security cameras have been immensely helpful. They cannot always be monitored in real time but have been utilized when police need to investigate an incident, she said.

Mayor Graham said that cameras can be a good deterrent used along with television screens with images, alerting people to the fact that a security system is in place. He added that signage might also be helpful.

Mrs. Wheeler said signage was something that was discussed at the last meeting and that it is being prepared.

Mayor Graham noted that the Manager's office would assist in having police be a greater presence at the library, especially during certain hours. He noted that a request had been made for additional funding to hire private security for the library.

Mrs. Wheeler said that is the direction they were looking to pursue. She noted the Board has been aware of the problem and they did decide at the last meeting to put in a request for security; if not during this budget then for next year.

Mayor Graham suggested the police department, with their expertise, help in coming up with some recommendations as well, concerning the best way to respond to the particular security concerns.

Mrs. Wheeler replied that they will be enlisting the help of a library director in Utica who has a background in security issues. She added that this individual will be conducting a security audit in June but if the findings are not completely helpful then perhaps Chief Goss will be able to lend further assistance.

Mayor Graham asked Mr. Krol to contact Chief Goss or his representative to set up a report or increase dialogue to see if there are more things the City could be doing.

Mr. Krol said Chief Goss or a member of the police department should participate in discussions with the librarian from Utica as well.

Mr. Gebo noted there have been more incidents recently, some of which are serious. Through discussions with other libraries of similar size, he said, it has been noted that full time security is present in some of them. He added that during these budget discussions, it was appropriate to give Council an idea of some of the things the Board was looking into. The private security firm would be present four to five hours a day, he said. He added that some future research and implementation can be done internally while some will require cooperation by those other than library staff.

Mayor Graham commented that with any City building there is a concern with security, mentioning that City Hall has bailiffs on the first floor.

Council Member Butler inquired about the library building's physical assets which are valuable and the security of those items. He questioned having those items viewable to the public.

Ms. Holberg replied that is an issue that museums have with pieces on display, knowing that there is always a risk involved. She said the other option is to have items put away where no one can see them.

Council Member Macaluso suggested encasing the objects with something for protection.

Mr. Gebo said that is one of the reasons that a security audit is going to be held, to get some ideas regarding that issue.

Council Member Burns asked if there is a security system at the library that is utilized when the building is not open.

Mr. Gebo said there is but it is a very large building to secure.

Council Member Burns clarified her comment for the benefit of the public, stressing that there is a security system within the building currently.

Council Member Butler said a protective glass covering would be beneficial to help prevent damage and theft, weighing the cost of that versus the cost of a security guard.

Mrs. Wheeler replied that one of the original paintings was slashed a few years ago and more recently an antique cabinet was broken.

Council Member Butler suggested putting certain items away until a security plan can be implemented.

Council Member Burns said she liked Mr. Krol's suggestion of the Board having more open dialogue with the Police Chief; sharing concerns and utilizing his expertise.

Mayor Graham asked if the security audit was an additional expense.

Mrs. Wheeler replied it is being done free of charge.

Mayor Graham mentioned library usage during the summer will be monitored to determine visitor volume on Saturdays. He added the possibility of a desire to identify accommodations that are specific to the library in a collective bargaining agreement which would provide more flexibility.

Council Member Butler said after further thought, he is willing to spend money on the library and would like to see it open on Sundays. He added it would make sense to initiate a pilot

program prior to next year, something to pursue in September or October, and keep track of demand. If the program is successful, he said, then going into next year more resources could be committed to have it open on a permanent basis. He said he wants to be certain that it would be well-received before making the change.

Council Member Macaluso commented she has been saying that for two years, to utilize creative scheduling and that it should definitely be open during the school year.

Mr. Gebo said the board is willing to explore any and all alternatives, noting there are constraints regarding the union contract. He specified that three employees would be willing to work overtime, the rest at this time are not willing to do so. He added that three people are needed to run the library. Mr. Gebo said the board is willing to explore it but stressed it is just a pilot program. He noted that there are limitations on working half days or six days in a row.

Mayor Graham noted that, regarding contractual issues, it is not a prohibition of working on Sunday, but rather on hiring part time people. He added this would be a subject of future discussions.

Attorney Slye noted it would be a mandatory subject of discussion.

Mr. Gebo said there are a number of issues to explore and added that it might make discussions easier if the union knows it would be for a two month pilot program.

Mayor Graham said if the pilot program works out, additional staffing by some capacity would be considered. He suggested working on pilot topic over the summer to come up with a suitable program. He added that the City is committed to doing what has to be done for the library, referencing the façade and fountain projects, noting that if it involves extra appropriations for staffing and overtime, it will be worked out through the fiscal year.

Mayor Graham thanked members of the Library Board for coming to the meeting.

Motion to adjourn was made at 6:56 p.m. by Council Member Butler, seconded by Council Member Macaluso and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Amanda C. Lewis
Deputy City Clerk

